

AMRRIC Education

Felt Dog

Lesson Plan

2022



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Teachers Table

Duration: 45 mins

Year level: Years 5-12

For primary school teachers...

The following lesson plan does not explicitly relate to any Content Descriptors in the KLA of Science for Years 5-6 (in relation to the **Australian Curriculum** (Science) version 8.4 <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au>). It may be beneficial in re-visiting/expanding on science topics explored in stage 2, particularly concerning Biological Sciences.

Required Resources

- Dog Template (supplied)
- Assorted coloured felt (supplied). These will act as your dogs 'organs.'
- Reference image for 'organ' placement (supplied)
- Sewing scissors
- Marker
- Worm Poster
- 1 x Packet lolly snakes
- 1 x Packet Jellybeans
- Pictures of/or empty parasite medication boxes

Pre-requisite Knowledge (optional)

- It may be beneficial for students to be aware of the term 'parasite' and its properties. E.g., a parasite needs a living host to survive.
- Further, it may also be beneficial for students to have a basic awareness of the different organs of a dog (i.e. heart, small intestine) and their functions.

Learning Intention (WALT)

This lesson aims to provide an understanding of how parasites can affect our dogs and share knowledge about the types of medicines we can use to treat affected dogs. 'Felt dog' looks closely at the internal and external parasites our dogs are susceptible to in our environment and the risks these parasites also pose to human health. By the end of the lesson, participants will have an increased awareness of the signs of parasitic infection and how this can be both prevented and treated. This download includes the teacher's instructions and a printable dog template.

Lesson Instructions

Introduction (10 mins)

- Have students seated at their desks or on the floor. Introduce the topic of the lesson- Parasites.
- Briefly discuss what a parasite is and the effects parasites can have on our dogs. For example, a parasite is a tiny organism that inhabits an organism of another species (the host), either internally or externally. The parasite benefits by gaining nutrients at the expense of the host.' Parasites can have the following effects on our dogs:
 - Dull coat
 - Diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - Weight loss
 - Decreased Activity
- Ask the students if anyone has a dog or has owned a dog in the past. Allow a few moments for responses. It may be an idea to further ask students about their feelings towards their dog(s). For example, they may feel extreme love and care for their dog or an innate need to ensure care for their dog. Engaging students in this type of discussion may help shift students' focus into an empathetic state and enhance the extent to which the intended learning outcomes of the lesson are understood.

Body (30 mins)

- Layout the black square base.
- Layout the brown felt dog cut-out on top of the black base.
- Hold up one organ at a time, asking students to name the organ if possible.
Discuss the purpose of each organ with the students, then choose one student to place the organ in the correct position on the brown dog. Refer to the supplied reference image during this section and assist students where needed.
- Continue to layout each organ and bone until all are correctly placed on the dog.
- It could be an idea at this point to make note that dogs' bones are fragile, the same way humans' bones are fragile and that we need to treat them as such.
- Use snake lollies to demonstrate how worms enter a dog's body- they travel into the heart, stomach and intestine, then come out in their faeces and spread throughout the community.
- Next, use jellybeans to illustrate worm eggs in the stomach and intestines.
- Discuss the types of personal hygiene practices we should employ around our dogs (washing hands if we have been playing or patting our dogs, washing hands if we have been playing on the ground where dogs have been, not letting dogs lick our faces). These practices are prevention tools for both humans and other dogs becoming sick. During this time, you may also like to take the opportunity to discuss the environmental impacts parasites can cause, including where worms and germs breed and live. For example, parasites can be found in rubbish – it is essential to feed our dogs so they don't have to look for food in the garbage. It is equally important that we put our rubbish in the bin; puddles of water from leaking taps make an excellent breeding ground for worm larvae etc.
- Once you have talked about the organs, worms and worm eggs, place the hair/fur coat over the felt dog.
- Ask students if they have seen a dog with bad skin? What has happened to their coat? Have they lost all of their hair? Why could this be happening? Answers may include ticks, mites, and fleas.

- It is vital to discuss the importance of keeping our dogs' skin healthy to help keep ourselves healthy, as external parasites can quickly spread to humans, causing health concerns. Emphasize that the condition of our dogs' coats is an excellent indicator of their health.
- Inquire into some of the strategies we can use to help keep our dogs skin healthy and ways that we can help heal our dogs skin. Encourage ideas such as medicine, washing (bogey), & visiting the Vet.

Conclusion (5 mins)

- To conclude the lesson, sum up the signs and symptoms of parasitic infection in our dogs and the importance of medicine in helping treat parasites keeping the community healthy. It may be helpful to co-create a summary list of the above with the students or hold a small discussion.

